

At page 49, line 11, delete " 84:1005-1009" and insert  
-- 62:2836-2844--.

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

a1 Sub B' 1. (Amended) A synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA and having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:[1-31] 1-15, 17, 19-31, and 42-48.

a2 SUB E3 17. (Amended) [The] A synthetic oligonucleotide [of claim 1 having] complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA and consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:16.

a3 SUB E3 19. (Amended) [The] A synthetic oligonucleotide [of claim 1 having] complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA and consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:18.

Please added the following new claims:

a4 207. (New) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 16 which is modified.

208. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 207 wherein the modification comprises at least one internucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, alkylphosphonothioate, phosphoramidate, carbamate, carbonate, phosphate triester, acetamidate, carboxymethyl ester, and combinations thereof.

209. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 208 comprising at least one phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

210. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 209 comprising phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

211. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 17 which comprises at least one deoxyribonucleotide.

212. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 17 which comprises at least one ribonucleotide.

213. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 211 which comprises at least one ribonucleotide.

214. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 212 comprising at least one 2'-O-methyl nucleotide.

215. (New) A kit comprising at least the oligonucleotide of claim 16.

216. (New) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 19 which is modified.

217. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 216 wherein the modification comprises at least one internucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, alkylphosphonothioate, phosphoramidate, carbamate, carbonate, phosphate triester, acetamidate, carboxymethyl ester, and combinations thereof.

218. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 217 comprising at least one phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

219. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 216 comprising phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

220. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 19 which comprises at least one deoxyribonucleotide.

221. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 220 which comprises at least one ribonucleotide.